



State of Florida Drinking Water and Wastewater Inventory Frequently Asked Questions

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Q: What is the purpose of the Statewide Inventory?

A: The purpose of the State of Florida Drinking Water and Wastewater Inventory, also referred to simply as the Statewide Inventory, is to document both the drinking water source and the wastewater treatment method for each improved parcel in the state. A similar project was completed by legislative mandate in 2008-09, focusing exclusively on wastewater treatment methods. The current project effort includes the addition of drinking water sources. Additionally, some of the information provided in 2009 is now out of date and some information was not provided, which required estimation of "likely" onsite or central treatment methods. In the 2009 Inventory, responses were received from 52% of utilities, representing 85% of the state's total permitted sewage capacity. Much more source data is present today than several years ago and this current project seeks to update the existing information, while also gathering and analyzing information that was not provided in the previous inventory effort.

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Q: Is the information I provide secure?

A: Yes. The Statewide Inventory Database and the information gathered to conduct the inventory will be secured in accordance with the Department of Health (DOH) Enterprise Information Technology Security Policy. Only that information which necessary to achieve the desired benefits to the state (please refer to the [Benefits](#) section) will be posted on the publically accessible DOH website. Furthermore, names associated with parcel data are not required to conduct the inventory, will not be stored in the database, nor posted on the website.

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Q: What are the benefits of the Statewide Inventory?

A: There are many benefits to completing and maintaining a comprehensive inventory of drinking water sources and wastewater treatment methods:

- It will provide a vital tool in disaster preparedness and response activities.
- It will provide the ability to more accurately estimate the impact to public health during a disaster.
- All information in the inventory will be shared with interested parties via the Department of Health (DOH) website.
- It will provide the ability for utilities that do not have Geographic Information System (GIS) capabilities to utilize DOH resources to enhance their information, processes, planning, etc.
- It will be a potential time saver for utilities providing the ability to direct persons to the DOH website for answers to similar questions that are frequently asked by the public.
- It will improve the speed of permitting processes for multiple agencies and interested parties.
- It will provide the ability for utilities to identify areas for potential expansion of services.
- It will assist with identifying environmentally sensitive areas where conversion of onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems (OSTDS) (septic systems) and private drinking water wells to public water and sewer.
- It will provide the ability for builders, developers, and businesses to access information from the website to enhance their planning and permitting activities.
- It will assist development review staff with determining "how close" sewer service is when assessing new subdivisions.
- It will provide additional tools for land use and infrastructure planning.
- It will provide homeowners, potential buyers, and realtors online access to drinking water and wastewater information on properties.
- It will assist in public education and outreach.
- It will make Florida a national leader in identifying and maintaining drinking water sources and wastewater treatment methods.

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Q: Who is conducting the Statewide Inventory?

A: The Department of Health (DOH) is conducting the inventory in cooperation with each of the 67 County Health Departments (CHDs), the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR), the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DOACS), the State Emergency Response Team (SERT), and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

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Q: What types of information are you looking for?

A: The Department of Health (DOH) has parcel information provided by each county Property Appraiser for all properties in the state. The inventory effort seeks to identify drinking water sources and wastewater treatment methods for each improved parcel through the collection and analysis of:

- Geographic Information System (GIS) GeoDatabases
- Geographic Information System (GIS) Shapefiles
- Geographic Information System (GIS) Service Area or Franchise boundaries
- Geographic Information System (GIS) point, line, or polygon data
- Database tables or extracts with relevant drinking water or wastewater information
- Customer lists (excluding names) with physical addresses indicating provision of central water or sewer services

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Q: What if I do not have a Geographic Information System (GIS) from which to provide the requested information? What file formats will you accept?

A: We will accept database tables from MS SQL Server or MS Access, spreadsheets from MS Excel, or Comma Delimited (CSV) documents. In the interest of accuracy and efficiency, paper files are not desired.

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Q: What fields are you interested in receiving?

A: We are looking for the following fields:

1. Date of data
2. Parcel ID/Tax ID
3. Physical address
4. Latitude/Longitude
5. Facility ID and Utility Name for both PWS and WWTF
6. Drinking water source (central water, onsite well, unknown)
7. Wastewater method (central sewer, onsite septic, unknown)
8. Comments

[Click here](#) to access the Customer Data Request Form template.

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Q: I am associated with a drinking water or wastewater utility. What is it that you are looking for?

A: We are seeking information on the properties and/or customers served by the DEP-permitted facility for which you are a contact. We already have all of the facility information from DEP; we are looking for the properties that are served by the facility and whether each property has public sewer or septic system and public water or private well. If your facility serves just one parcel, then this would be the property information for the parcel served. If your facility serves multiple parcels, this would most likely be a list of all the customer properties served by your facility. We are not, however, looking for customer names or any other personal information. For the specific fields and formats we are requesting, please see the other areas in this FAQ or the Data Gathering portion of the website.

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Q: What will be done with the information I provide?

A: The Department of Health (DOH) will collect, analyze, and store all information in the Statewide Inventory Database. Information on drinking water sources and wastewater treatment methods will be made available on the DOH website. Please also refer to the [Purpose](#) and the [Benefits](#) sections for more details on activities.

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Q: How do I send my information to you?

A: All information from data source providers is requested in electronic format. There are multiple methods for providing this information. The methods listed below are in order of preference for efficiency:

1. Point Department of Health (DOH) staff to any files available on your public Internet website
2. Transmit files (<8MB) via email to the designated Department of Health (DOH) email address: DCEHInventory@flhealth.gov
3. Place files on your File Transfer Protocol (FTP) site and direct DOH staff to the site and provide permissions for download
4. Utilize the Department of Health (DOH) MOVEit DMZ application for secure file transmission of large files (> 8MB) that cannot be sent via email (please refer to the [MOVEit DMZ Handbook](#) for more information on this process)

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Q: What is MOVEit DMZ?

A: The Department of Health (DOH) MOVEit DMZ application is utilized for secure transmission of large files (>8MB). DOH staff will create a "Package" within the MOVEit DMZ application and email the "Package" to the organization's contact person that will be transmitting files. This creates a temporary account for the recipient in the DOH MOVEit DMZ application. A hyperlink to the DOH MOVEit DMZ application, along with the recipient's temporary account username and password, is included in the email. Clicking on the hyperlink takes you to the secure website where you are able to log into the website and will be prompted to change your temporary password. You now have access to the secure website and an "Inbox" containing the "Package" that was emailed to you from the DOH staff. To transmit files, open the "Package" from your "Inbox", attach the files you wish to transmit, and press "Send" to transmit the files to DOH. **The temporary account established for file transmission is active for 30 days and the files must be transmitted during that timeframe.** For additional questions and step-by-step instructions on using the DOH MOVEit DMZ application, please refer to the [Handbook](#). Additionally, any support questions may be emailed to: DCEHInventory@flhealth.gov

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Q: What if I have questions that are not answered here?

A: Visit the [Florida Water Management Inventory webpage](#). You may also contact the Department of Health (DOH), Bureau of Environmental Health, at the following email address: DCEHInventory@flhealth.gov

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